

state nearly \$3 billion to weather the current economic climate.

In addition to his many roles in government accountability, Mr. Calabro is involved in a number of community organizations, including the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of the Big Bend, the Knights of Columbus, and the Board of Directors of Florida House.

Mr. Calabro is also dedicated to improvements in public education. He is on the Board of Advisors for Florida State University's Graduate School of Social Work. Mr. Calabro also serves on the Florida Education Foundation and Communities in Schools of Florida.

Mr. Calabro has been supported in all of his endeavors by his loving wife of thirty-one years, Debbie. Mr. and Mrs. Calabro are devoted to their four children, Diana, Dominic, Christina, and Danny.

I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Calabro on his thirty years of service with Florida TaxWatch, and to wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors.

#### EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO PAKISTANI PEOPLE AFTER FLOODS

SPEECH OF

#### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 2010*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus and co-sponsor, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1613. I am deeply concerned about the humanitarian tragedy unfolding in Pakistan due to the recent historic floods and hope that this resolution will bring much-needed attention to the plight of the Pakistanis. I am always moved and inspired by the generosity of the American people when they hear about those in need around the world and I believe that the United States should do everything possible to help expedite the flow of U.S. and international aid supplies and workers into the region.

We must do everything possible to help expedite the flow of U.S. and international aid supplies and workers into the region. I believe that we should immediately reprogram funds from the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009, which were initially set aside for democracy building, into the relief effort. This way we can have an immediate impact without spending a single additional taxpayer dollar. While food shortages and instances of water-borne disease continue to spread, we must act quickly and decisively. The generosity of the American people has been commendable. Let's make it count by acting as swiftly and competently as possible.

We are currently fighting extremists throughout the region of South Asia, extremists who propagate the lie that Americans are out to destroy the Muslim way of life. Now we have an unprecedented opportunity to prove that this couldn't be further from the truth by helping the Pakistanis when they need it most. The U.S. response to the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan led to a short-term increase in positive public opinion of the United States in

Pakistan and I know that a similar response to this, a much larger tragedy, is sure to have an even greater influence in the hearts and minds of people.

#### PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS IN CON DAU

#### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 16, 2010*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to once again raise the issue of human rights. In January 2010, the Government of Vietnam sent police and government officials into a village to force parishioners and families to sign an agreement to sell their land. In April 2010, a 73-year-old parishioner named Le Van Sinh was hit with tear gas and fell unconscious. In May 2010, parishioner Mrs. Dang Thi Tan passed away and was met with extreme violence and 300 armed police officers and special anti-riot troops while her friends and family tried to bury her in the Con Dau cemetery. During the ceremony, the police attempted to seize the casket. The diocese of Da Nang also reported that Mr. Nam Nguyen, a parishioner of Con Dau was arrested, threatened and beaten to death.

Are these the actions of a country that respects human rights? The same country that committed these horrendous violations was taken off the Country of Particular Concern (CPC) list because the Department of State felt they had progressed in respecting religious freedom. The same country that detained these individuals for peacefully exercising their freedom of speech is a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

How can we identify Vietnam as an international partner when it is unable to respect and recognize the basic fundamental ideas of democracy and freedom? Vietnam must be put back on the CPC list and challenged by the U.S. government to improve and promote human rights in order to further United States-Vietnam relations.

I urge the Department of State to seriously address the human rights violations occurring in Con Dao. I also urge my colleagues to support the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Vietnam to investigate the ongoing human rights violations happening in Con Dau by becoming a cosponsor of House Resolution 1572.

#### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 16, 2010*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of this week's anniversary of independence of numerous Latin American countries, of our country's Hispanic Heritage Month, and in special recognition of Latinos in my district and throughout our country.

On September 15, five Latin American countries commemorate their independence, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala,

Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. I join these nations in mutual celebration of liberty, democracy and freedom, values which we share dearly.

I am proud that my district is the home of thousands of Hispanic or Latino descent. This community is comprised of individuals who cherish their various ethnicities and national origins. And yet, the Hispanic-American community is united by the importance that they place on faith, family, hard work, and the hope of sharing in a better America.

Madam Speaker, it is in this spirit of national unity that I join you in commemorating Hispanic Heritage Month.

#### HONORING BILL GRAFF

#### HON. STEVE DRIEHAUS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 16, 2010*

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Madam Speaker, last weekend, a shining light went out in the City of Norwood, Ohio when Bill Graff passed away.

Before he moved to Norwood eight years ago, Bill was one of the millions of Americans whose work formed the backbone of our nation. He retired from General Motors after a career that took him from his native Michigan to Tennessee.

It was after he retired that Bill brought his charisma and commitment to Norwood, and spent the last years of his life changing that city for the better. In the relatively short time he called Norwood home, Bill Graff wove himself into the fabric of that community. Whether carrying out a restoration that breathed new life into one of Norwood's magnificent older buildings, leading the charge to get new equipment for Norwood's police and first responders, or brainstorming about their next project with Vivian, his wife of 45 years, Bill was always looking for new ways to give back and strengthen the bonds that hold Norwood together.

Through his tireless actions, Bill showed us that community means more than just a group of people sharing a street or a neighborhood. He showed us that community is built upon service to one another, concern for our neighbors and our children, and a dedication to improving the lives of those around us as well as our own families.

Especially in these tough times, we look at Bill's life as an example of what a single person can do to lift up so many others. He will be dearly missed.

#### MEDIA GIVES FAR MORE MONEY TO DEMOCRATS THAN REPUBLICANS

#### HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 16, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, for a revealing example of the national media's liberal bias, just follow the money.

During the 2010 election cycle, journalists have given to Democrats over Republicans by